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3 MAR 1948

The Honorable
Harry B. Mitchell
President
U. S. Civil Service Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 6 February relative to the Federal Employees' Loyalty Program under Executive Order 9835 requesting that certain data be furnished by this Agency to the Civil Service Commission in connection with that program. In accordance with the suggestion contained in the last paragraph of your letter, representatives of this Agency discussed this problem with the Chief of the Commission's Investigative Division and the following methods of applying the Loyalty Program appear to be best suited to the interests of this Agency.

As indicated to your representative in the discussion with representatives of this Agency, I am charged under paragraph (d) (3) of Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 with the responsibility for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. I consider it an important part of this responsibility to maintain security of operations and personnel by protecting from disclosure our strength figures and any rosters or lists of individuals assigned to this Agency which would disclose our strength. The National Security Council has indicated its concurrence in this matter.

This Agency desires to cooperate to the fullest extent with the Civil Service Commission in the implementation of the Loyalty Program. In the investigation and security determination of its personnel, this Agency conducts an investigation which in scope is larger than that required under the Loyalty Program and which approximates what is termed a full field investigation. In like manner, the personal security standards of this Agency are undoubtedly considerably higher than most other government agencies in view of special considerations which are pertinent to the security of operations conducted by this Agency. Our standards for final determination of the personal qualifications of any individual to be employed by the Agency require careful consideration of the individual's background, not only from the standpoint of unquestioned loyalty to the Government of the United States, but also concerning matters of character, financial stability, and personal integrity.

In conformity with discussions with representatives of your Commission and consistent with my responsibilities as Director, this Agency is in a position to certify to the Civil Service Commission that:

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(a) The names and finger prints of incumbent employees as of September 30, 1947 have been checked against the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation subsequent to May 1946.

(b) The names and finger prints of employees appointed subsequent to September 30, 1947 and individuals to be employed in the future will be checked against the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(c) In cases where information reflecting on the loyalty of an employee is developed as the result of a name or finger print check, a full field investigation will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Loyalty Program.

In accordance with my responsibilities for the protection of intelligence sources and methods, it would not be consistent with this responsibility for this Agency to forward, after adjudication, the investigative files on appointees for possible further investigation by the Commission. This Agency, however, is in a position to certify to the Commission that the investigation conducted on all appointees is in full conformity with that required under the loyalty Program and meets fully the criteria for determination of suitability as set forth in the Loyalty Program.

In like manner, it would not be feasible to provide as in Part III, Section 2 of the Executive Order 9835, information for the master index file as such information, in any form, might open the way for a possible serious compromise of the security of our intelligence sources and methods. We will, however, provide the Commission appropriate information for the master index in those cases where derogatory information was developed and as a result of which the applicant was not employed.

I hope you will understand and agree with my position in these matters. If you desire, I will be glad to discuss it further with you personally.

Sincerely,

cc: [unclear]

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

Signer's Copy
Central Records
Return to Col. Edwards
RLB Chrono.

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25 February 1948